

Application No. 10/802,385  
Amendment Dated October 12, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of April 12, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A slat for use in a rolling shutter formed from the slat and another slat having a receptacle track having a lip with a tip articulation surface disposed in the interior of an articulation space to form the rolling shutter configured to assume an extended arrangement wherein the slat and the another slat are oriented in a substantially vertical plane and a retracted arrangement wherein the slat and the another slat are articulated relative to each other to be rolled within a shutter casing; the slat comprising:

a body extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge; and

an engaging track located at the first edge of the profile of the body, wherein the engaging track has a profile extending from the first edge along a decreasing-radius arc at least 180 degrees to a tip; and a protrusion extending away from the first edge towards the tip

wherein when the engaging track is received in the articulation space of the receptacle track with the tip in engagement with the articulating surface of the lip of the receptacle track of the another slat, the engaging track of the slat and the receptacle track of the another track cooperate to limit vertical movement of the slat relative to the another slat to a maximum vertical movement of less than 0.1 inches.

9. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 8, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 210 degrees to the tip.

10. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 8, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 230 degrees to the tip.

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11. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 8, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 240 degrees to the tip.

12. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 8, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 250 degrees to the tip.

13. (Currently Amended) A slat for use in a rolling shutter, comprising:  
a body extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge;  
an engaging track located at the first edge of the profile of the body, wherein the engaging track has a profile extending from the first edge along an arc at least 180 degrees to a tip; and

a receptacle track located at the second edge of the profile of the body, wherein the receptacle track has a profile including a discontiguous articulation surface having a first concave articulation surface spaced a distance apart from a second concave articulation surface and a gap disposed between adjeacent ends of the first and second articulation surfaces, and a lip adjacent to the first articulation surface extending away form from the first articulation surface towards the second articulation surface

14. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 13, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 210 degrees to the tip.

15. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 13, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 240 degrees to the tip.

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16. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 13, wherein the arc of the profile of the engaging track has a radius that decreases towards the tip.

17. (Currently Amended) The slat of claim 13, wherein the profile of the receptacle track further comprises a curved surface extending along an arc at least 250 degrees from the first concave articulation surface to the second concave articulation surface to define the gap.

18. (Previously Presented) The slat of claim 13, wherein the profile of the engaging track further includes a protrusion extending away from the first edge towards the tip. The curved surface is configured to receive the shaft of a screw for mounting a guide to the slat.

19. (Currently Amended) A slat for use in a rolling shutter, comprising:  
a body extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge; and

a receptacle track located at the second edge of the profile of the body, wherein the receptacle track has a profile including a discontiguous articulation surface having a first concave articulation surface spaced a distance apart from a second concave articulation surface, a gap in the discontiguous articulation surface being disposed between adjacent ends of the first and second articulation surfaces, a lip adjacent to the first articulation surface extending away from the first articulation surface towards the second articulation surface, and a curved surface extending along an arc at least 210 degrees from the first concave articulation surface to the second concave articulation surface defining a gap in the discontiguous articulation surface being disposed between the first and second articulation surfaces.

20. (Currently Amended) A rolling shutter, comprising:  
a first slat comprising:

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a body extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge; and

an engaging track located at the first edge of the profile of the body, wherein the engaging track has a profile extending from the first edge along an arc at least 180 degrees to a tip; and  
a second slat comprising:

a body extending between a first end and a second end, wherein at least a portion of the body has a profile having a first edge, a second edge, a first side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge, and a second side extending along a curve between the first edge and the second edge; and

a receptacle track located at the second edge of the profile, wherein the receptacle track has a profile including a discontiguous articulation surface having a first concave articulation surface spaced a distance apart from a second concave articulation surface and a gap disposed between adjacent ends of the first and second articulation surfaces, and a lip adjacent to the first articulation surface extending away from from the first articulation surface towards the second articulation surface;

wherein the first slat is slidably coupled to the second slat such that in a first position the tip of the profile of the engaging track contacts the lip of the profile of the receptacle track and a portion of the profile of the engaging track contacts a portion of the second concave articulation surface of the profile of the receptacle track.

21. (Previously Presented) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 210 degrees to the tip.

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22. (Previously Presented) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the profile of the engaging track extends from the first edge along the arc at least 230 degrees to the tip.

23. (Previously Presented) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the arc of the profile of the engaging track has a radius that decreases towards the tip.

24. (Currently Amended) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the profile of the receptacle track further comprises a curved surface extending along an arc at least 250 degrees from the first concave articulation surface to the second concave articulation surface to define the gap.

25. (Previously Presented) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the profile of the engaging track further includes a protrusion extending away from the first edge towards the tip.

26. (Currently Amended) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the first concave articulation surface, the second concave articulation surface, and the lip define a receiving profile similar in shape and size to the profile of the engaging track, such that when the rolling shutter is extended and the first slat and the second slat lie in a plane, a relative movement between the first slat and the second slat in the plane is constrained by the structure of the first and second slat to a maximum relative movement of less than 0.05 inches.

27. (Currently Amended) The rolling shutter of claim 20, wherein the first concave articulation surface, the second concave articulation surface, and the lip define a receiving profile similar in shape and size to the profile of the engaging track, such that when the first edge and the second edge of the first slat are positioned in a first plane, the second slat is articulable from a first position where the first edge and the second edge of the second slat are  $\alpha$  in the first plane, to a second position where the first edge and the second edge of the second slat are  $\alpha$  in a second plane that is at an angle of 100 degrees relative to the first plane.